



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily

June 17, 2011, 4:00 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:

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Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

Nebraska National Guard Update

The Nebraska National Guard currently has 98 Soldiers and Airmen deployed in direct support of flooding of the Platte and Missouri Rivers.

This number includes 12 members of the Nebraska Army National Guard assisting local emergency management officials in South Sioux City in 24-hour monitoring of Missouri River levees.

The Nebraska National Guard has also deployed an initial response force of 18 Guardsmen to help Omaha and Douglas County emergency management officials in 24-hour monitoring of the Missouri River. Additional Guardsmen are also working with local and county emergency management officials in several roles.

Twenty-four additional Nebraska Army National Guard Soldiers deployed in support of Omaha and Douglas County emergency management officials beginning today. The Guard has pre-positioned one UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew, support staff, and 10 Army National Guard riggers at Omaha's Eppley Airfield to conduct aerial sandbagging operations in the event that the situation along Missouri River levees warrants it.

The National Guard is also positioning two UH-58 Kiowa helicopters and crews at Omaha's Eppley Airfield to provide local and state emergency management officials aerial surveillance of Missouri River levees.

An additional Nebraska Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter and crew will remain on alert at the National Guard base in Lincoln, Neb.

During evening hours, the Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and helicopters will return to Lincoln where they will remain on alert for any potential missions.

Health Concerns associated with Floodwaters

Floodwaters can present some serious health concerns according to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Besides bacteria, floodwaters can contain dangerous contaminants including farm chemicals like fertilizers, manure from feedlot runoff, sewage, and gas and other fuels. It's important to stay out of the floodwaters as much as possible. And definitely don't let your children play in them.

If you have to deal with floodwater, wear tall, watertight boots and rubber or leather gloves to protect yourself. Wash your hands frequently with soap and uncontaminated water, especially after participating in flood clean-up activities and after handling articles contaminated with floodwater or sewage.

Do I need a tetanus shot if I'm in a flooded area?

Tetanus immunization is recommended for all adults every 10 years. Exposure to floodwaters doesn't increase the risk of tetanus according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. However, if you get a severe wound or deep cut, check with your health care provider to see if you need a booster. Tetanus is an infectious disease, but it's not spread from one person to another. The bacteria that cause tetanus are found in the soil and usually enter the body through a wound. The infection is very serious and will involve a long hospital stay. Surviving tetanus disease doesn't create immunity. The only way to guarantee future protection is through immunization.

Caring for Pets During a Disaster

Before you're asked to evacuate, check into the following options for housing pets.

- Contact hotels and motels outside your immediate area to check policies on accepting pets and restrictions on number, size, and species. If a hotel has a "no pet" policy, ask if this can be waived due to the emergency.
- Ask friends, relatives, or others outside the affected area whether they could shelter your animals. If you have more than one pet, they may be more comfortable if kept together, but be prepared to house them separately.
- Call boarding facilities and veterinarians for animal sheltering options;
- Ask local animal shelters if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets in a disaster. Animal shelters may be overburdened caring for the animals they already have as well as those displaced by a disaster, so this should be your last resort.

Leaving pets behind, even if you try to create a safe place for them, is likely to result in their being injured or lost.

For more information about animal safety, see the **Pets and Disaster Safety Checklist** on the American Red Cross disaster preparedness web site at www.redcross.org.

Road Closures

The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) is discouraging any use of US 75 as a diversion or detour. US 75 in Nebraska has major construction and lane restrictions in several areas from south to north. Those being: Just south of Omaha near the Platte River and again north of Omaha and Decatur north. These areas could also experience a flooding closure. NDOR is recommending using US 77 and US 81 coming north from Kansas.

Information regarding road closures can be found at www.roads.ne.gov/flood/.

Hwy 12 closed east of Verdel to Niobrara State Park Recreation Road. The state park is open.

Hwy 12 closed one mile east of Niobrara to the Santee Spur (S-54D).

Hwy 14/37 closed from the junction with Hwy 12 to the Nebraska-South Dakota border (Standing Bear Bridge). Hwy 14 is open going south from the Junction of Hwy 12.

Hwy 30 closed between North Platte Airport to Maxwell viaduct due to water over the road. Detour from Newberry Link (L56G) to I-80 to Maxwell (S-56A).

I-680 into Iowa closed due to closure of I-29 in Iowa.

Hwy 75 at La Platte to the Platte River will be head to head traffic in the northbound lane with the southbound lane closed until fall 2011. Use of Hwy 75 is not recommended as an alternate route due to existing construction projects and lane closures.

Lyman Drive - Gering – Potential for Lyman Drive west of North 10th Street and North 10th Street near Crescent Drive will be flooded and closed if water continues to rise; closed private road to Midtown Supply that is an extension of Twin City Drive, east of North 10th Street in Gering because of water covering the road (Midtown Supply relocated).

Shelters open/ Red Cross

Fort Calhoun High School, 1506 Lincoln St.

South Sioux City Middle School, 3625 G St.

Peru Shelter to be opened tonight at Neal Hall at Peru State College, 600 Hoyt Street.

River Levels

National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service as of today:

Platte River

Henry – 6.19 feet, flood stage is 5.5 feet

Mitchell – 9.46 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Minatare – 7.78 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Bridgeport – 8.43 feet, flood stage is 9.5 feet

Lisco – 4.15 feet, flood stage is 4 feet

Lewellen – 8.30 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

North Platte – 7.54 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Brady – 8.27 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

Cozad – 5.86 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Overton – 6.11 feet, flood stage is 7 feet

Kearney – 5.81 feet, flood stage is 6 feet

Grand Island – 5.62 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet

Duncan – 5.65 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

North Bend – 5.31 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Leshara – 5.92 feet, flood stage is 8 feet

Ashland – 16.48 feet, flood stage is 20 feet

Louisville – 5.10 feet, flood stage is 9 feet

Missouri River

Verdel – 28.93 feet, flood stage is 24 feet

Niobrara – 26.40 feet, flood stage is 21 feet,

South Sioux City – 33.62 feet, flood stage is 30 feet

Decatur – 37.88 feet, flood stage is 35 feet

Blair – 31.50 feet, flood stage is 26.5 feet

Omaha – 33.11 feet, flood stage is 29 feet

Plattsmouth – 34.15 feet, flood stage 26 feet

Nebraska City – 25.06 feet, flood stage 18 feet

Brownville – 40.84 feet, flood stage is 33 feet

Rulo – 24.46 feet, flood stage is 17 feet

Flood Information - Informacion de Inundaciones - resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at www.nema.nebraska.gov and click Flood Information - Informacion de Inundaciones in the Quick Links. Para información de las inundaciones en Español, por favor usa estos recursos .

County Updates

Garden County

Road 199A is closed from road 46 to the junction at Hwy 26/92 due to water over the road

Scottsbluff County

County road F west of Morrill is now a one-lane, local traffic only road

County road 36 is flooded and closed two miles east of McGrew

Sarpy County

Gene C. Epply has vacated its 56 campers and cancelled all of its summer camps.

[List of County Emergency Managers](#)

[List of Nebraska Local Health Departments](#)

Past news releases, Facebook and Twitter updates are available by selecting the icons below.



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